

# Montana Driver Education and Training

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## Effects of Alcohol and Other Drugs on the Driving Task Part II



# Standards and Benchmarks

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## 1. Laws and Highway System

- a. know proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- b. communicate and explain proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- c. consistently demonstrate knowledge and understanding by responsible adherence to highway transportation system traffic laws and control devices

## 2. Responsibility

- a. recognize the importance of making safe and responsible decisions for owning and operating a vehicle
- b. demonstrate the ability to make appropriate decisions while operating a motor vehicle
- c. consistently display respect for other users of the highway transportation system
- d. develop habits and attitudes with regard to responsible driving

## 3. Visual Skills

- d. develop habits and attitudes with regard to proper visual skills

## 4. Vehicle Control

- b. develop habits and attitudes relative to safe, efficient and smooth vehicle operation.

## 5. Communication

- a. consistently communicate their driving intentions (i.e., use of lights, vehicle and personal signals)
- b. adjust their driver behavior based on observation of highway transportation system and other users
- c. adjust communication (i.e., use of lights, vehicle and personal signals) based on observation of highway transportation system and other users
- d. develop habits and attitudes relative to effective communication

## 6. Risk Management

- a. understand driver risk-management principles
- b. demonstrate driver risk-management strategies
- c. develop driver risk-management habits and attitudes

## 7. Lifelong Learning

- a. understand past, present and future vehicle and roadway design, and driving cultures
- b. describe past, present and future motor vehicle laws
- c. understand benefits of a lifelong learning approach to driving
- e. identify opportunities for lifelong education in driving



# ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES IN MONTANA

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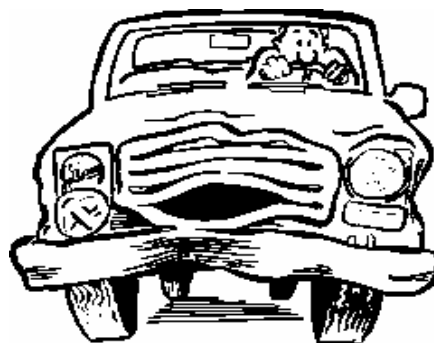
- Traffic accidents involving drinking historically have been and continue to be a major problem in Montana
- Alcohol related crashes tend to result in more severe injuries than crashes with no alcohol involvement



# ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES IN MONTANA

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- In 2003, out of all Montana traffic fatalities, 41% involved a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or higher
- During 2001, for ages 15-20, 51% of highway fatalities involving Montana youth were alcohol related versus a national average of 38.1%
- In 2002, 20% of adult Montanans reported binge drinking (i.e., consuming five or more drinks on one occasion in the past 30 days)
- A large proportion of this group indicated that they began drinking in high school



# ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES IN MONTANA

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- In 2003, 65% of deaths among youth aged 15 to 19 years old in Montana were attributed to accidents
- Seventy-one percent of these accidental deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes.
- During 2005, a survey of high school students found 49% had at least one drink of alcohol during the past 30 days; 34% had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row during the past 30 days (“binge drinking”)



# The Scope of the Traffic Safety Problem Nationwide and in Montana

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- Years of nationwide data collection by researchers show crashes involving an alcohol impaired or intoxicated driver are about 50% more likely to result in an injury or fatality than crashes in which alcohol was not involved
- All 50 states and the District of Columbia have laws defining it as a crime to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at or above a proscribed level, usually 0.08 percent.



# The Scope of the Traffic Safety Problem Nationwide and in Montana

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- During 2000, in Montana one of every 140 miles driven, a person with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC)  $\geq 0.10$  sat behind the wheel
- Police reported 2,211 crashes involving a driver or pedestrian with a BAC of 0.01 or more
- During 2004, the Montana Highway Patrol issued 2,666 citations for driving while under the influence (DUI)
- Alcohol was a factor in over 24% of all fatal crashes

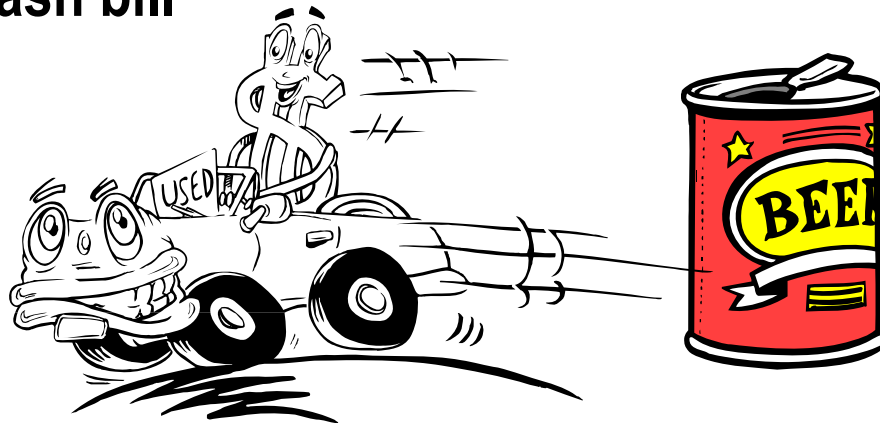


# The Scope of the Traffic Safety Problem Nationwide and in Montana

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## Costs

- Alcohol is a factor in 42% of Montana's crash costs
- Alcohol-related crashes in Montana cost the public an estimated \$0.7 billion in 2000, including \$0.3 billion in monetary costs and almost \$0.4 billion in quality of life losses
- Alcohol-related crashes are deadlier and more serious than other crashes
- People other than the drinking driver paid \$0.4 billion of the alcohol-related crash bill





# The Scope of the Traffic Safety Problem Nationwide and in Montana

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## Costs per Alcohol-Related Injury

- The average alcohol-related fatality in Montana costs \$3.4 million
  - \$1.0 million in monetary costs
  - \$2.4 million in quality of life losses
  - The estimated cost per injured survivor of an alcohol-related crash averaged \$96,000



# The Scope of the Traffic Safety Problem Nationwide and in Montana

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Driving records are a primary means of tracking the problem of hardcore drunk drivers

- The following are key aspects of Montana's records
  - From year to year, and from state to state, your driver history stays with you
  - Montana utilizes a statewide criminal reporting system, called Criminal Justice Information Network, which includes information on DUI offenses
  - Offenders are tracked through conviction
  - The average BAC level of arrested offenders is 0.15, and the average BAC level of convicted offenders is 0.17
  - There were 2,216 drivers who refused to take a BAC test in 2001
  - Of those refusals, 1,951 resulted in license suspension and 265 resulted in license revocation



# THE CULTURE OF DRINKING

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Generally, people drink for five reasons

1. Quench thirst
2. To get drunk (binge drinking)
3. To enjoy a social setting
4. As part of a religious or traditional ceremony
5. Custom



# NATIONAL TEEN DRIVING FACTS

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- For young drivers age 15 to 20, alcohol involvement is higher among males than females
- In 2004, 26% of young male drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking at the time of the crash, compared with 12% of young female drivers involved in fatal crashes
- Drivers are less likely to use restraints (seatbelts) when they have been drinking
- In 2004, among young passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes, 63% of those who had been drinking were unrestrained
- Of the young drivers who had been drinking and were killed in crashes, 74% were unrestrained
- All 50 states and the District of Columbia now have minimum-drinking-age (21 years old) laws



# TEEN DRIVING FACTS

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**Myth:** Beer is less intoxicating than other types of alcoholic beverages

**FACT:** One 12-ounce can of beer, one 4-ounce glass of wine or one normal mixed drink or cocktail are all equally intoxicating.

**Myth:** Cold Showers, fresh air or hot coffee help sober a person

**FACT:** Only time will remove alcohol from the system — It takes the body approximately one hour to eliminate the alcohol in one drink.

**Myth:** Eating a big meal before you drink will keep you sober

**FACT:** Drinking on a full stomach will only delay the absorption of alcohol into the bloodstream, not prevent it — eating before drinking is not a defense against getting drunk.



# TEEN DRIVING FACTS

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**Myth:** Everyone reacts to alcohol in the same way

**FACT:** Many factors affect a person's reaction to alcohol — body weight, metabolism, gender, body chemistry, etc.

**Myth:** Alcohol is a great way to relax and reduce stress

**FACT:** Alcohol increases the level of stress that is placed on the body.

Adrenaline levels increase in the body as we drink.

We may feel more relaxed when we drink alcohol, but the body actually comes under additional stress.



# TEEN DRIVING FACTS

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**Myth:** It would be to my advantage if I could learn how to "hold my liquor"

**FACT:** If your usual amount of alcohol no longer gives you a "buzz" or you have to drink increasing amounts to feel any effect, you are developing a tolerance.

Tolerance is a sign that the liver is being constantly exposed to alcohol and is working overtime to cope.

It may also mean you have gone beyond being a social drinker and may be developing a more serious problem with alcohol.



# TEEN DRIVING FACTS

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**Myth:** Drugs are a bigger problem than alcohol

**FACT:** Although alcohol use is legal and more socially acceptable, it is still classified as a drug.

Alcohol has claimed the lives of more young people than cocaine, heroin, and every other illegal drug combined.

About 18 million Americans are addicted to alcohol or have alcohol abuse issues.

Furthermore, alcohol is the No. 1 drug problem of today's youth.

**Myth:** Someone who has had too much to drink will look drunk

**FACT:** The way someone looks can be misleading.

One drink can impair one's judgment and ability to drive.

Judgment is the first thing affected when someone has been drinking – motor skills are the second.





# TEEN DRIVING FACTS

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**Myth:** One or two drinks will not affect driving ability

**FACT:** Alcohol is a depressant drug and therefore slows down reaction time and affects judgment with just one drink.

The effects of alcohol not only depend on the amount consumed, but also on the user's past drinking experience, the way in which the alcohol is consumed, and a person's feelings or mood.

The only safe way to drive is sober.

**Myth:** If a person drinks or uses other drugs, they are only hurting themselves

**FACT:** People who drink or use drugs harm not only themselves, but others such as their families and friends who care about them.

The costs are even greater if a person drinks and drives.



# THE EFFECT ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

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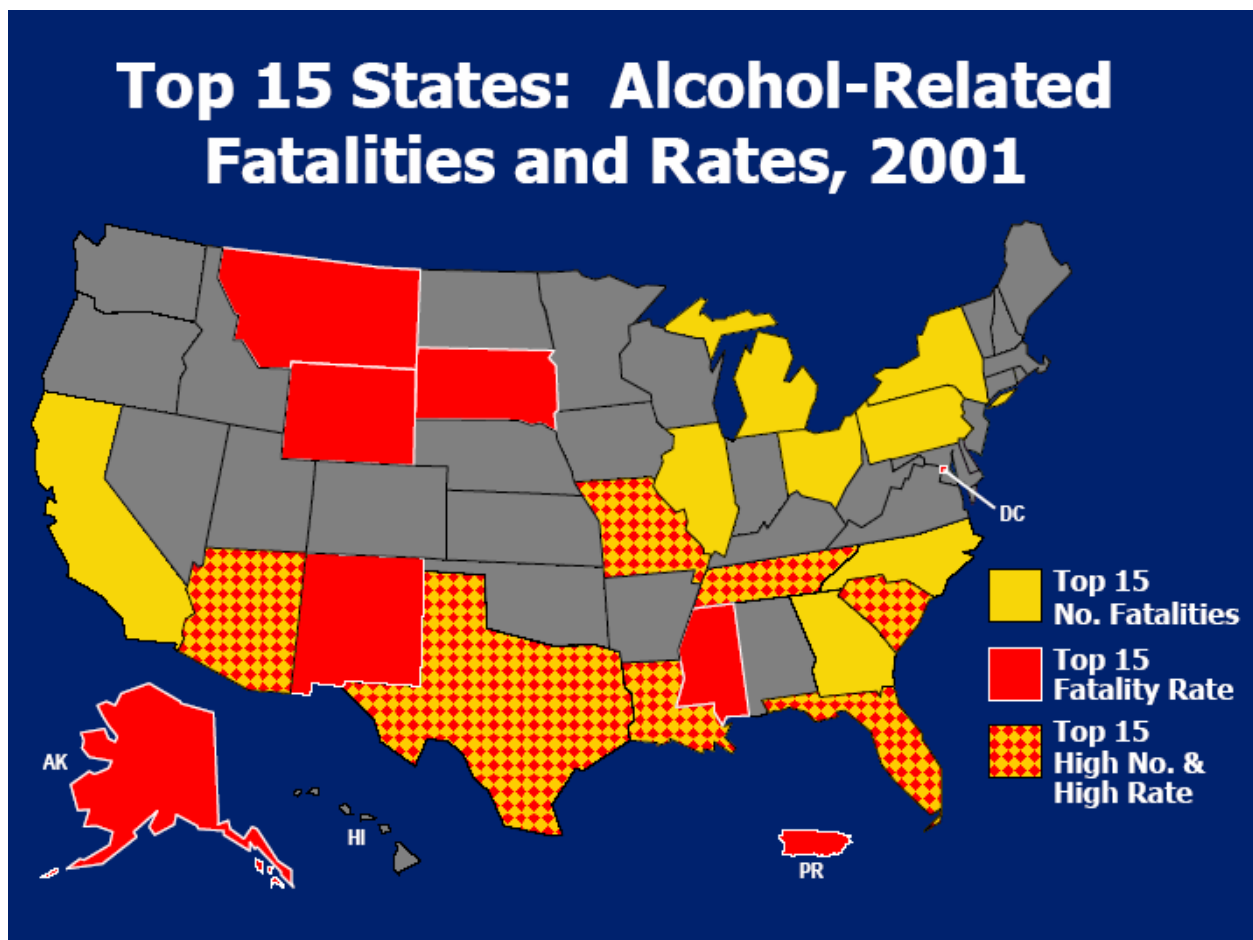
- The financial costs of drunk driving crashes are pale in comparison to the pain and suffering that many victims must endure, some for the rest of their lives
- Drunk drivers cause families to bury loved ones and results in families that lose their health, fall into deep depression and cope with overwhelming grief
- Financial struggles usually occur for the families left behind



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# MONTANA'S ALCOHOL-RELATED FATALITIES



# MONTANA'S DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE LAWS

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- Montana laws provide that a person driving with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04% but less than 0.08% may be charged with DUI if that fact is considered with other competent evidence
- Under the law, a driver is presumed to be impaired when the blood alcohol concentration reaches or exceeds 0.08%
- For any impaired driving, there are serious, long-term, expensive consequences



# MONTANA'S DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE LAWS

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A person convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall be punished as follows:

## First Time Offenders

- Will receive a minimum sentence of 24 hours in the county jail and a \$300 fine
- Could potentially be sentenced to a \$1,000 fine and 6 months in county jail
- License may be suspended pending successful completion of a court-ordered chemical dependency assessment, education or treatment



# MONTANA'S DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE LAWS

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## Multiple Offenders

- Could be sentenced to fines up to \$5,000, consecutive periods as long as 48 hours in county jail, additional mandatory imprisonment for up to 30 days (of which portions as long as 10 days may not be suspended by the judge) and total jail sentences as long as one year, some or all of which may be suspended by the judge pending successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program



# MONTANA'S DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE LAWS

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A person convicted of operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08% or greater shall be punished as follows:

## First Offenders

- Will be punished by a minimum of \$300 fine and imprisonment up to 10 days

## Multiple Offenders

- Could receive a \$5,000 fine and imprisonment up to six months
- A fourth or subsequent conviction for DUI is a FELONY and a convicted offender could receive up to 13 months in jail and a \$10,000 fine!



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# Montana: Minor in Possession (MIP)

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- If a judge decides to order the suspension of an offender's driver license, as part of the penalty for the MIP, then the judge sends that MIP conviction to Motor Vehicles Department, with the notation that a license suspension is required
- Upon receipt of the conviction, Motor Vehicles Department takes the appropriate driver improvement action against the offender, such as suspending the offender's license for the number of days ordered by the court and that action is recorded in the driver improvement section of the offender's driving record





# Montana: Minors Under Age 21 BAC

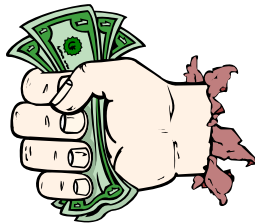
**It is illegal in all 50 states to drink alcohol under the age of 21**

**Minor under age 21 with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater**

- **First Offense:**
- **Fine not less than \$100 or more than \$500 and suspension of driver's license for 90 days**
- **Second Offense:**
- **Fine not less than \$200 or more than \$500, incarceration for no more than 10 days if age 18 or older, and suspension of driver's license for six months**
- **Third or Subsequent Offense:**
- **Fine of not less than \$300 or more than \$500, incarceration for not less than 24 hours or more than 60 days (if age 18 or older), and suspension of driver's license for one year**
- **In addition, a minor convicted of a BAC 0.02 or greater must pay a \$200 reinstatement fee and comply with an alcohol treatment program**



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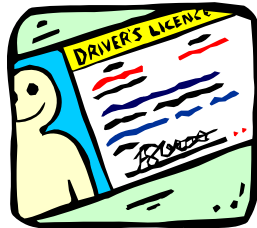


# SCREENING FOR ALCOHOL

- Montana law allows for a peace officer, as a part of their screening for determining an impaired driver, to ask for a Preliminary Alcohol Screening Test
- In addition, any person who operates a motor vehicle on the roads of this state open to the public, shall be deemed to have given consent to a chemical test of their blood or breath, for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content of their blood, if arrested by a peace officer for driving or being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol
- If a driver refuses to submit to either the preliminary screening or regular test, the peace officer will seize the driver's license, issue the driver a suspension or revocation notice and a temporary driving permit that will be valid for five days
- On first refusal, your driver's license is suspended for six months, on a second or subsequent offense within five years, your license is suspended for one year with no provision for a probationary license



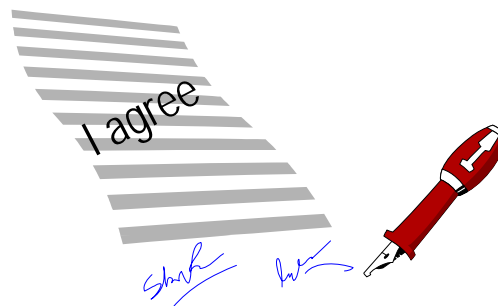
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# Administrative License Suspension and Implied Consent Laws

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- A holder of a Montana driver license, by accepting the license, agrees to give consent to a chemical test of their blood, breath or urine for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content of the blood
- Refusal to submit to the test will result in the arresting officer seizing the driver's license and the driver will be issued a temporary driving permit that will be valid for five days
- On first refusal, the driver's license will be suspended for a period of one year with no provision for a restricted probationary license
- When arrested, the officer will give a preliminary alcohol screening test
- The officer must have reasonable grounds to believe the person has been driving or had been in actual physical control of a vehicle on the roads of the state and was under the influence of alcohol, drugs or a combination of the two



# AVOID IMPAIRED DRIVERS ON THE ROAD

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## Watch for signs of driver impairment

- Driving at inconsistent speeds
- Driving on the lines or straddling the lane lines
- Weaving
- Drifting into other lanes or on-coming traffic
- Driving on the edge of the road
- Driving in a turn lane
- Braking or stopping without cause
- Sudden starts and stops
- Slow to respond to traffic signs and signals
- Tailgating
- Driving at night without headlights on or only daytime running lights or leaving high beams on
- Reckless passing maneuvers
- Near misses or hitting vehicles or objects in or on the road
- Leaving turn signals on
- Making wide turns



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# PASSENGERS NEED TO AVOID IMPAIRED DRIVERS

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**As a passenger in a vehicle with a driver who may be impaired, look for these signs:**

- **Gripping the steering wheel tightly**
- **Slouching in the seat**
- **Making strange or obscene gestures**
- **Driving with windows open in cold weather**
- **Sticking the head out of window**
- **Driving with face too close to the windshield**
- **Not turning the head to scan**
- **Talking loud**
- **Music played louder than normal**



# AVOID IMPAIRED DRIVERS ON THE ROAD

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## What to do when a drunk driver is seen

- Keep as much distance as possible away from the impaired driver
- Do not pass someone demonstrating impaired driving behaviors
- Pull off the road or turn on a side road when safe if the impaired driver is following
- Note the color, make, model, license plate number if possible and direction of vehicle of the impaired driver
- Report the impaired driver

